



Graduate Students Association of McMaster University
Council Meeting
October 30th, 2019
GSA Office, East Tower the Refectory
5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Shawn Hercules (GSA President), Caroline Seiler (FRC Health Science), Maxwell Lighstone (Senator Engineering), Olive Liang (VP Administration), Mohammed Chowdhury (FRC Engineering), Wei Zhao (VP Services), Anthony Quarshie (FRC International), Ish Jain (FRC Science), Mia Zhang (VP Internal), Tiffany van Lieshout (FRC Science), Zarwa Saquip (FRC Health Science), Man You (FRC International)

Regrets: Ashley Ravenscroft (DoO),

Absent: Mariam Munawar (Senator Business), Kara Tsang (GSA CRO), Anita Acai (Senator Science), Rodrigo Narro (BoG), Sahand Sepehrvand (Senator Engineering)

Call to order 5:07

1. President's Remarks

- Next Meeting – tentative date 27th of November 2019 at 5 pm.

2. Call for New Business

- a. **MOTION:** Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda moved by Max, seconded by Caroline, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **MOTION:** Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of last meeting as circulated moved by Caroline, seconded by Zarwa, all in favor, motion carried.

3. President remark:

- Shawn mentioned some remarks about the Phoenix committee meeting. The committee discussed the financial matters and the addition of different food items to the menu, for instant; introducing meat alternative burger, halal meet and halal chicken.
- There are programs for Halloween like pumpkin carving contest and Karaoke night.

- Starting a new program where grad students can talk for 10 to 15 minutes about their research at the Phoenix, first one on November 4th and November 11.
- The GSA is maintaining a stronger partnership with CUPE, we are scheduling monthly meeting committee to discuss what's in favour of the grad students.
- Shawn mentioned volunteers from council is needed to adjudicate the GSA awards; Wei, Zarwa are interested to volunteer.

4.VP vacant position:

- Shawn mentioned that Unnati had stepped down. If any council member interested to step up for the Vp Position, can speak with Shawn and submit an application. The position requires 10 hours per week and the honorarium per month is \$450.
- The main role of the VP External position is to communicate what's happening with grad student body through the Website, Twitter Facebook, Email and advocacy groups.
- The current portfolio work is divided between Mona, Ashley & Shawn until the Vp position is filled.

5.VPs report:

- Shawn mentioned he finished the student's handbook for both domestic and international students.
- The GSA took the decision to buy a server and computer to have a server at the GSA office; the cost is 2k. The website will be hosted under the new server.
- Wei mentioned that he will send the handbook as a link to everyone and it will also be posted on the GSA website.
- Mia mentioned that she joined the October Admin Con meeting, there is a lot of new programs will start next September. For instant, PhD in Global Health and MSc. in Public Policy.
- The Graduate council divided the members into 4 different group; part time, student supervisory relationship, graduate calendar and cross management policy.
- The GSA starts planning the Spice grant to host a bunch of workshops for grad students. She contacted SWC to host workshop regarding mental health.
- Olive mentioned the finance meeting was last week to discuss phoenix and GSA finances.
- Sales-food is at 32% which is good position, Conrad will connect with Katherine regarding allergens in meatless burger products, and he is also deciding whether to introduce halal to phoenix.
- But the expense is a little bit more than last year's, thus the profit is less. That is because Phoenix made two new signs to decorate the wall. Also, phoenix had summer students in July/August which increased the wage amount of 22K. Good thing is the government will pay back this fee. So, if we add 22k back, profit will be higher than last year(48k)
- New business is, The Phoenix will go to tender for a company to make an awning for the Patio.

- For GSA, we have more soccer team and less softball team this year. The change of umpire is less due to timing issue.
- GSA is still waiting for contributions from SGS, and we didn't receive the fees remitted from university yet. Hopefully we are expected to receive them next month. Other fees and expenses haven't been recorded, such as meeting expenses, telephone equipment, those are depending on when they will be processed to charges.

6.FRC Reports:

SciGSA

- Ish mentioned that they are planning a dodge ball event on Saturday.
- They are still working on updating the website
- Working on setting an Instagram page, but still searching if it is possible to have a different log in information for the same account.

Health science

- Caroline mentioned that they are planning to submitted the association application on next council meeting.

EGS

- Max mentioned the following;
- They had a workshop on financial literacy last Monday
- Pumpkin carving event is tomorrow
- There is an issue with SEPT students started in January. It turns out most fees are prorated, except the GSA fees. Shawn added that Health and dental, capital build, student athletic and other fees are prorated to reflect January start but some other fees are not.
- They are generating a list for Grad students they will need to know when they start grad school.
- Mohammad added that after welcome week, they had apple picking event in October.
- Planning student supervisor workshop with the GSA, planing to have 3 workshops, in January, April and July.
- Shawn added that he will receive the official minutes from BoG and will share it with the council on next meeting.

7.Excel sheet for opt out circulated,

- The excel sheet circulated is showing the percentage of opt out per faculty.
- The opt out is under 15% in total opt outs.

8.DDSA clubs Approval:

- The budget was corrected.
- Members agreed to approve the DDSA club

Motion to ratify the DDSA club moved by Tiffany seconded by Caroline, all in favour motion carried.

9. FRC Appointment -Mehmet Akgul

- Members agreed to table the discussion to next agenda until the student send his statement of interest and sign his application form.

10. New business

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 5:50 pm moved by Mohammad, seconded by Wei, all in favor, motion carried.

Action Items:

Item	Action by	Due date
NA		